

Pitzer Ranch, Rock Wall
Bounded by Base Line Road,
Padua and Towne Avenues
4353 Towne Avenue
City of Claremont
Los Angeles County
California

HABS No. CA-2267-C

HABS
CAL,
19-CLAMD.
1-C-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

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STATE California	COUNTY Los Angeles	TOWN OR VICINITY City of Claremont
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Pitzer Ranch, Fieldstone Wall		HABS NO. CA-2267-C
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 4353 North Towne Avenue, City of Claremont, Los Angeles County, California, 91711		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Circa 1912	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Robert H. Orr (Written Documentation)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Refer to Supplemental Page		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Fieldstone and cement.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Refer to Supplemental Page		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Refer to Supplemental Page		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Not Applicable		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Refer to Supplemental Page		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE: The Pitzer Ranch Complex HABS recordation was a mitigation measure for the Base Line Road/Towne Avenue Environmental Assessment to allow for the widening and improvement of Towne Avenue.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Refer to Narrative Report		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Dana C. Privitt, Sanchez Talarico Associates, Inc.		DATE April 1988

PITZER RANCH, STONE WALL

SIGNIFICANCE

The Pitzer-Peairs House Fieldstone Wall is part of the Pitzer Ranch Complex consisting of the Pitzer-Peairs House and garage on Towne Avenue and the Foreman's residence, water tower, shed, stone barn, concrete reservoir, pumphouse, and secondary house on Padua Avenue. The stone wall and decorative stone landscape border are associated with the Pitzer-Peairs House which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Pitzer-Peairs fieldstone wall surrounds the property on the north and east. Low fieldstone decorative borders are located in the front yard of the Pitzer-Peairs House. The borders serve to delineate flower beds, landscape areas, walkways, and driveways.

The Pitzer-Peairs House fieldstone wall and the decorative stone landscape border are both architecturally and historically significant. The wall is recognized in design due to the use of fieldstone and conformance to its surrounding rustic setting. The architect, Robert H. Orr and the original owner, Lee C. Pitzer, chose fieldstone to utilize local materials and to blend with the rustic environment. Claremont has an abundance of stone from the surrounding hills and mountains due to the City's location on an alluvial fan. Builders in early Claremont used fieldstone in the construction of housing and for decorative features. It was a convenient building material as fields had to be cleared of stone for cultivation. Most of the all stone structures are located in north Claremont.

The Pitzer-Peairs House and associated garage, fieldstone wall, and decorative landscape border are associated with the agricultural heritage of the City of Claremont and Southern California. The wall was constructed during the period of early settlement and exploration of the citrus-producing land on Base Line Road and changing use of natural resources in the region. The Pitzer-Peairs House and associated features have strong ties to families important to the settlement of Claremont. Samuel Pitzer was a pioneer developer of the citrus industry. His sons, Crant, Lee C., and Russell Pitzer also helped to establish the citrus industry in the Pomona Valley, specifically Claremont. The house has had only three owners: Lee C. and Blanche Becket Pitzer, Maurice and Adele Peairs, and John and Patricia Hodges (current owners).

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE

The Pitzer-Peairs fieldstone wall, measuring 2.5 feet high and 1.5 feet wide, surrounds the property on the north and east. The stone wall currently extends 315 feet along Base Line Road and 175 feet along Towne Avenue. The wall is constructed with uncut native fieldstone and mortar. It is partially overgrown by mature shrubbery and ivy.

Low fieldstone decorative borders are located in the front yard of the Pitzer-Peairs House. The borders serve to delineate flower beds, landscape areas, walkways, and driveways.

On the south side of the property is a large oak tree. The oak was large when the Pitzer-Peairs House was constructed. South of the house is a winding drive lined with fieldstone. The entrance of the drive from Towne Avenue has two stone entry pillars.

Two curved sweeping walks extend from the corners of the house to the respective corners of the lot.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES

The extreme western end of the fieldstone wall was removed and replaced to permit the planting of a large oak tree in the front lawn. Date of modification is unknown.

The primary pedestrian entrance to the Pitzer-Peairs property was originally on Towne Avenue at the corner of Base Line Road and Towne Avenue. This entrance was closed by Mr. Lee Pitzer in 1946. Mr. Pitzer stated, "Too many tramps come in that way." Fieldstones were placed between the entrance pillars. A juniper tree was planted to discourage people from climbing over the stone wall.

Several fieldstones in the wall have been broken and replaced due automobile accidents at the intersection of Base Line Road and Towne Avenue.

The location of some of the decorative fieldstone landscape borders have been modified over the years with minor modifications to the landscaping and pathways were made. Other landscape borders remain in the same location as the original layout.